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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q64554

MOHRI, NAOTAKE, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/872,421

Group Art Unit: 1762

Confirmation No.: 8462

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: May 31, 2001

For: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DISCHARGING SURFACE TREATMENT

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
DEC 30 2002  
TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

However, since a statement can be made, a Statement is being filed so that in the event an Office action has issued but has not yet been received by the undersigned, the Examiner will proceed to consider this Information Disclosure Statement.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an

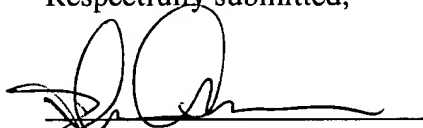
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/872,421

English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: December 27, 2002



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**STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Turner  
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